

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~COUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORTTOPIC 1. Border Guards in the Area North of Usti nad Labem near Sneznik (Schneeberg)
2. Military Installations in Usti nad Labem

25X1

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 24 March 1955

25X1

REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

25X1

REMARKS

 This is UNEVALUATED
Information

1. In the summer of 1954, the border between Czechoslovakia and Eastern Germany in the area around Sneznik (Schneeberg, N 51/F 46) was guarded by Czech troops who wore red-service color. A total of about 200 men on whose uniforms no doghead insignia were observed was quartered in Sneznik, particularly in the "Schweizer Hof" Hotel and in other smaller houses. Some of these soldiers whose native tongue was Hungarian said that they were infantrymen who had been detached as border guards to the Schneeberg area after receiving a short-term basic training. The troops had no heavy weapons. On border guard duty, they were accompanied by dogs. Some elements of the unit were mounted.
2. In the fall of 1954, a simple barbed-wire fence which in some places was already converted into a multiplex fence system was observed along the border in the area north of Sneznik. Clearings were made in the area of the border zone. The watchtowers which were set up at major intervals were equipped with searchlights.² In the summer of 1954, the highway between Petrovice (Peterswald, N 51/F 36) and Tisa (Tissa, N 51/F 46) and a portion of the surrounding area was closed by means of a simple barbed-wire fence. Military units whose branch of service was undetermined held record practices with light infantry weapons in this area. In the summer of 1954, about 15 military trucks and 3 pontons which were placed atop each other were observed from the northeastern perimeter of Tisa. Record practices were also held in this area prior to the summer of 1954.³
3. Prior to 15 December 1954, three four-story buildings which adjoined each other and where officers were frequently seen entering or leaving were observed on ul. Herbenova in Usti nad Labem (Aussig, N 51/F 44) pinpoint location of which was unknown. The buildings had been completed in the fall of 1953. The officers wore no dog head insignia and very frequently travelled in sedans to the northern border area. In early 1954, other military billets were observed on Grosse Wall Strasse in the center of the city where about 30 to 50 soldiers who wore red service color were seen. Prior to mid-December 1954, a motor vehicle repair shop which was requisitioned by the armed forces was observed at the northern end of ul. Fucikova near the branch to Telnice

25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1

(Telnitz, N 51/F 53). Soldiers sometimes repaired up to 6 motor vehicles at a time in this installation. As early as 1952 and 1953, and in the summer of 1954, military trucks which were loaded with targets and aiming equipment passed through the city toward Telnice or returned to the city from there.⁴

4. Prior to mid-December 1954, a political convict camp was located in Vseborice (Schoeberitz, N 51/F 44).

1. Comment. It is believed that the soldiers observed in the Sneznik area were not infantrymen, but belonged to PS units of the 19th PS Brig which is stationed at Decin. The red service color and the absence of the doghead insignia are possibly due to temporary bottlenecks in clothing supply. These soldiers have probably been reassigned to the PS units after having received basic training at infantry units. 25X1
2. Comment. The fortifications along the border between Czechoslovakia and Eastern Germany are being constantly extended largely to the southwest. The improvements are apparently performed with similar intensity to those along the Bavarian border. 25X1
3. Comment. It is presumed that the Petrovice area is used as a troop training grounds. 25X1
4. Comment. It is believed that a headquarters is stationed at Usti nad Labem. The [REDACTED] which were loaded with aiming equipment [REDACTED] to the Petrovice training grounds. 25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1